



Meeting Minutes

Linn Grove PTO

Meeting Date & Time: Tuesday, March 6th at 6:00pm

Meeting Place: Linn Grove Media Center

Mission Statement:

The PTO is a volunteer organization that works exclusively on behalf of our children through the cooperative efforts of our families and school staff.

The PTO shall do this by:

A. Fostering closer working relationships between school, parents, and teachers.

B. Providing a forum for discussion and communication between parents, administrators, teachers and the community.

C. Enhancing the educational facilities and opportunities for the students of Linn Grove Elementary.

Meeting Called to Order by Kara Larson

Attendance: 8

(Officers in attendance: Kara Larson, President; Kelly Ackley, Vice President/Co-Treasurer, Angela Lincoln, Secretary; Sheri McCormick, Co-Treasurer)

Minutes: Minutes from February 2018 meeting were accepted

1. Building Update:

Chad Buchholz, Principal: Here is an overview of the presentation by Mr. Buchholz. The Elementary Homework Guiding Coalition has been working for last year and a half (group of 28) to shift our perspective of homework across the district. All principals of all buildings, Jill Weigel (GWAEA Chief Administrator), Kelly Kretschmar (Elementary T & L Director) too. Jill has been facilitating these meetings and helping with the process. This started in fall of 2016 when a group of seven principals realized homework was all over the board. Last year's work was to remove any punitive measures from current homework practices and support literacy homework (read every night). School Board asked for more information before implementing any changes. This committee is now working to finish summarizing the literature they have reviewed, move forward into developing practices and procedures based upon evidence-based practice, share developed practices and procedures with constituents (staff, parents, board), then finalize practices and implement for the 2018-19 school year.

Mr. Buchholz also discussed security and safety for our students and staff. Staff has trained multiple times a year on security drills for the last four years. Last year was when we started educating kids. Staff does active and non-active drills (table-talk problem-solving). Experts and guidance are there at the district level which helps us talk about prevention. Active drill was two Fridays ago when no school and law enforcement was there with us and we go through scenarios within our building. We know there's an intruder and we have to problem solve on our own what we would do in that moment. We practice and get better each time. This year for first time they just knew what to do. Mr. Buchholz shared a quote about fire drills and zero deaths the last 30 years...by knowing what to do in an emergency we are more successful. Last year they met at a safe place. We will do another one of those this spring and will walk there to evacuate. We spent time talking to kids about ALICE (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) and what does it mean. When we hear the word 'Alice' we need to escape, evacuate, go. We need to understand a threat and communicate it. ALERT by phone, intercom, in the buildings, in the district. LOCKDOWN if not a problem in our setting. Two years ago we had a lockdown at Linn Grove because of a neighborhood issue. Other times we could would be due to a health issue, staff ill or student injured, and we want to make sure privacy practices.



Mission Statement:

The PTO is a volunteer organization that works exclusively on behalf of our children through the cooperative efforts of our families and school staff.

The PTO shall do this by:

A. Fostering closer working relationships between school, parents, and teachers.

B. Providing a forum for discussion and communication between parents, administrators, teachers and the community.

C. Enhancing the educational facilities and opportunities for the students of Linn Grove Elementary.

Lockdowns sometimes last three minutes or a couple of hours. We don't want kids to think to huddle down when there is an intruder in the building. If there's an intruder we want our kids to EVACUATE. That is the most important thing they can do. Anywhere, anytime, that is what we want our kids to know and understand (movies, church, etc.) find a safe place. We have practiced a barricade drill this year-when you can't get away from an intruder, to buy ourselves time until the police have a chance to get there. Fatal Funnel-can the intruder look in the classroom and see you? If they can then you're a target. If you're unseen that changes things and you've bought yourself a lot of time. INFORM – talk as much as possible. COUNTER – disrupt the OODA Loop of the intruder. You're taking anything and everything, throwing pencils, papers, staplers then intruder cannot hurt and then you can counter to escape or neutralize the situation. It's important to talk to your kids. They should be able to explain all five of those things. We hope that we never have that situation in our setting, but we are getting more and more prepared. We will not practice live situation with kids. Question: Is ALICE used in the district? The whole district uses the ALICE system...common language and common perspective in Linn Mar. It's a nationally understood program and a lot of businesses are using it now too for their employees. We will soon have our own employee that has been trained. Center Point/Urbana has been doing this for nine years and so they are our model. Mr. Buchholz has gone and watched their kids do the drills. There's a lot of districts that don't do anything so we are glad that we take the opportunity to teach our kids and giving them that perspective that it is beyond one place...it can happen anywhere. Talk with your kids, please talk with your kids, that helps support that message along the way.

2. Current Business:

PTO Events Recap: Urban Pie was busy and packed. We received \$300! Kelly Ackley reports Conference Dinners went really smoothly and thank you to everyone who donated! We received lots and lots of thank you's and good feedback.

Family Fun Night: Save the date flyer going out next couple weeks. April 20th, 5:00-7:30pm. We do not have entertainment for the gym at this time because a couple things fell through. We may use cupcake walk and book walk in there, then we would have a couple hallways clear. Jennie reports Zio Johno's and water are all done. Raffle baskets are looking good and we've gotten a lot of donations, which is headed up by Priscilla. If anyone knows of someone who could perform in the gym (Bruce's Tae Kwon Do & Poms) local to do a show etc...we could still have something. We are not charging for the gym this year. If you have any ideas please let us know!

PTO Board Positions-Elections in April: Elections will be at the April PTO meeting. Currently we have people interested in all positions except a President or two Co-Presidents. Please let us know if you're interested in that. We did receive a slip from Lisa Dighton at this meeting and she is interested in the Vice-President position! Thanks Lisa! We could possibly have Co-VP's.



Mission Statement:

The PTO is a volunteer organization that works exclusively on behalf of our children through the cooperative efforts of our families and school staff.

The PTO shall do this by:

A. Fostering closer working relationships between school, parents, and teachers.

B. Providing a forum for discussion and communication between parents, administrators, teachers and the community.

C. Enhancing the educational facilities and opportunities for the students of Linn Grove Elementary.

Current Budget & Changes: Since the beginning of the year, we have brought in: Write One \$675, Perkins \$288, Urban Pie \$300, Amazon Smile \$23.79, Aurora \$34 (total \$1300). We still have other income coming in (e.g. FFN Raffle Money, Moe's, Zio's, LaCantina, and Culver's) so we are increasing some items. 5th Grade Send Off budget is now \$1050. Staff Appreciation will be voted on in April to increase to \$400. The Fitness Station Plaques rough figure of \$500 is to be voted on in April, as Mindy is getting quotes for plaques, which will be put in April/May when ground allows. It was brought up that there was confusion about the online donations going 100% to Linn Grove, that possibly it was mostly going to the Linn Mar Foundation. This is false, all money goes to Linn Grove except for a minimal processing fee. We will be sure to include that in our documentation moving forward.

Box Tops: Presented by Kelly Ackley. The Book Fair contest brought in 3,732! Mr. Walker and Ms. Calcara were the classroom winners. The Boys vs Girls contest finished today, and the winner will get a fancy day. After Spring Break, we'll have student and staff contests.

Hy-Vee Receipts: We have received \$6,372.14 since our February meeting, but Carmen's adding machine broke so not all receipts were added in yet. March 31st is the end of this year's Cash 4 Students program so we need all your receipts turned into the school no later than Wednesday, April 4th!

3. New Business/Volunteer Requests:

Movie Night: Friday, March 9th. We need popcorn help starting at 4:30pm. Kara will be there.

Zio Johnno's: Tuesday, March 20th. We will need help 5:00pm-7:30pm. We will share a link to sign up for half hour shifts. All day-dine in/take out/delivery, all counts!

Staff Incentive Drawing: January: Mrs. Petersen. February: Ms. Shaffer. Kara will contact them and they can pick something up.

4. Officer's Report:

Presented by Sheri McCormick.

5. Open Discussion:

Reminder that LG Ice Arena got rescheduled at the end of this month, \$3 includes skates. If anyone takes pictures send them to Kara and she'll post them on FB. There was a question about Science Night being cancelled so Kara explained how that happened.



Mission Statement:

The PTO is a volunteer organization that works exclusively on behalf of our children through the cooperative efforts of our families and school staff.

The PTO shall do this by:

A. Fostering closer working relationships between school, parents, and teachers.

B. Providing a forum for discussion and communication between parents, administrators, teachers and the community.

C. Enhancing the educational facilities and opportunities for the students of Linn Grove Elementary.

6. Meeting Adjourned At: 6:59pm.

7. Upcoming Events

LG Night at Moe's – 3/8, 5:00-8:00pm, 20% back to LG!

LG Movie Night – 3/9, 6:00-7:30pm, Wonder movie

LG DAY at Zio Johnno's – 3/20, 11am-9pm, 10% back to LG!

LG at CR Ice Arena – 3/29, 6:30pm-8:30pm, \$3.00 per person

Coffee Conversation – 4/7, 8:30-9:30am @ Indian Creek Elementary

Don't forget to turn in Box Tops & Hy-Vee receipts!

Next PTO meeting is Tuesday, Apr 3rd!

Record volunteer hours at <http://volunteers.linnmar.k12.ia.us/login.asp>